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OPW Report No. 59-A -- COMMUNIST CHINA

(Jan. 26 - Feb. 1, 1953)

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SUMMARY

Enthusiastic reception of Chinese delegates and of a Chinese film at the Vienna Peace Conference are used to prove China a partner rather than a satellite of the USSR, but the effectiveness of the illusion largely is destroyed by continued talk of the importance of Soviet experts and the need to imitate the Russians.

Indications are that established traditions concerning woman's place make it difficult to recruit more women laborers to release men for the army, although apparently some Korean women also are available. References to the impending RAAK drive are frequent, and though aims still are murky, it appears there may be an effort to boost soldiers' morale as well as furnish food and supplies. Merchants are said to be pleased with the new commodity transaction tax, suggesting they may be under rather heavy pressure; Southeast Asia is called the real sufferer from the embargo; and the new Chengtu-Chungking Railway, at first described as a gigantic boost to the Southwest's economy, drastically raises rates to cover operating losses.

While Party committees take steps to tighten their control, expansion of the militia continues. Some important failures in the basic construction program are admitted, despite confiscation of the German Tunchi University for a technical training school, and the examples of bureaucratic bungling are astounding. Some of these, such as inducing farmers to destroy growing cotton to plant a new variety, sound suspiciously like sabotage, and Party moves to ferret out cadres' missteps include promises to keep "confidential" even anonymous letters. Despite efforts to publicize and enforce the marriage law, widespread disregard for the law is admitted, and weaknesses in steps toward a collectivized agriculture include use of mutual aid teams by some members to "get rich."

The United States is represented as interfering in Vietnam's internal affairs and of using military pressure in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Steps to consolidate resistance to "Chiang reactionaries" and American imperialist agents have been promised by the Thai tribesmen of Southwestern Yunnan.

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